

Message Text

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72-60

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 IO-10 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /055 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:WLEAGLETON:CF

APPROVED BY IO:WBUFFUM

S/S

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O 190023Z FEB 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 036734

TOSEC 466

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
BUFFUM

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS
GOVERNMENT, CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM FEBRUARY 18
TO DISCUSS SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON CYPRUS. HE SAID
MEETING WOULD PROVIDE OCCASION FOR U.S. TO MAKE ITS POSITION
CLEAR AND HE HOPED THAT THIS POSITION WOULD BE CONSISTENT
WITH STATEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY AND THE DEPARTMENT
TURKISH CYPRIOT DECLARATION OF A FEDERAL TURKISH STATE.
2. ALEXANDRAKIS ADDED THAT THE "TURKISH COUP" DESTROYED THE
NEGOTIATIONS IN NICOSIA AND THEREFORE ANOTHER PROCEDURE
OR FORUM SHOULD BE LOOKED FOR. HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD
HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE POSITION IN THIS REGARD. HE WAS AWARE
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OF THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS REGARDING THE REDUCED

INFLUENCE OF THE USG FOLLOWING THE TURKISH AID CUTOFF, BUT HE BELIEVED THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD GIVE THE U.S. AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXERCISE ITS INFLUENCE.

3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM REPLIED THAT U.S. WOULD BE AS CONSTRUCTIVE AS POSSIBLE AT THE UNSC BUT HE WARNED OF THE COMPLICATED PROCEDURE IN PRODUCING A RESOLUTION. STATE-

MENTS MADE BY THE SECRETARY AND THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ESTABLISH THE BASIS FOR OUR APPROACH. BUFFUM ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE GOING TO NEW YORK FEBRUARY 19 AND WOULD MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE GREEK DELEGATION.

4. IN REPLY TO BUFFUM'S QUESTION AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT KIND OF NEW PROCEDURE OR FORUM THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD IN MIND FOR CYPRUS. BUFFUM NOTED THAT THE U.S. HAD HISTORICALLY BEEN OPPOSED TO INTERNATIONALIZATION AND WOULD BE RESERVED ABOUT A NEW PROPOSAL UNTIL ITS FORM AND PURPOSE WERE CLEAR. HE ADDED THAT WE ARE FRANKLY DUBIOUS ABOUT ANY PROPOSAL THAT WOULD OPEN WAY FOR COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENT IN CYPRUS. THE U.S. HAS SUPPORTED THE CLERIDES-DENKTASH FORUM AND HAS NOT SEEN ANY TURKISH CYPRIOTS TO SEEK INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR A FEDERAL TURKISH STATE.

5. ALEXANDRAKIS CONCEDED THAT THE TURKISH MOVE WAS "CLEVER" BUT HE ASKED WHAT THERE WAS TO NEGOTIATE IN THE FACE OF SUCH UNILATERAL TACTICS. HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD CONDEMN THE TURKISH MOVE. BUFFUM NOTED THAT THE WORD CONDEMN WAS RESERVED FOR EXCEPTIONALLY EXTREME CASES AT THE UN AND THAT OUR POSITION WOULD REFLECT PREVIOUS U.S. STATEMENTS OF REGRET. WE WOULD ALSO HOPE THE COUNCIL'S ACTION WOULD HAVE THE FURTHERANCE OF NEGOTIATIONS AS ITS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE. IN RESPONSE TO BUFFUM'S QUESTIONS, ALEXANDRAKIS CONCEDED THAT THE DECLARATION OF A TURKISH STATE HAD CHANGED LITTLE ON THE GROUND BUT HE ARGUED THAT ITS POLITICAL EFFECT WAS CONSIDERABLE AND HE REEMPHASIZED THAT A CHANGE OF FORUM WAS NOW REQUIRED. MAW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE036734
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WLEAGLETON:CF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750058-0369
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750231/aaaabbsg.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <25 SEP 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM
TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR, (ALEXANDRAKIS, MENELAOS)
To: ATHENS PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006